



September 15, 2014

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The Honorable Sam Johnson, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Social Security  
Committee on Ways and Means  
B317 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Mr. Chairman,

The National Council on Independent Living (NCIL) is one of the most widely respected voices on disability rights in the United States. NCIL is a national organization responsible for advocating for a philosophy which emphasizes that people with disabilities have valuable contributions to make to society, and deserve the opportunity to decide how to live, work and take part in their communities.

I am writing you today on behalf of the board of directors, to express our strong support of H.R. 5260. NCIL members work daily with thousands of Americans with disabilities who manage a disability that meets the strict Social Security definition of disability used in Title II and Title XVI disability program applications. We are most pleased that H.R. 5260 includes TITLE III--MODERNIZING DISABILITY PROGRAMS with its focus on modest improvements related to the vocational goals and aspirations of Social Security disability beneficiaries.

NCIL expects that provisions in H.R. 5260 overall will be implemented by federal agencies with extreme care to uphold the law in every way that protects and serves the interests and benefits of those who meet the requirements found in Social Security disability application and appeals rules and procedures.

The National Council on Independent Living is the longest-running national cross-disability, grassroots organization run by and for people with disabilities. Founded in 1982, NCIL represents thousands of organizations and individuals including: individuals with disabilities, Centers for Independent Living (CILs), Statewide Independent Living Councils (SILCs), and other organizations that advocate for the human and civil rights of people with disabilities throughout the United States.

NCIL is a thoughtful leader in this policy area; and we continue to offer you our technical assistance when needed and appropriate. Please do not hesitate to contact me for any further information.

Sincerely,

Kelly Buckland  
Executive Director